

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EURE-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 /071 W

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O 151535Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2176

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0413

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT CY GR

SUBJ: CYPRUS: CLERIDES' RESIGNATION

REF NICOSIA 0128

1. THE CLERIDES RESIGNATION HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MAIN STORIES IN THE GREEK PRESS THE PAST TWO DAYS. WHEREAS PRESS REPORTS YESTERDAY (JANUARY 14) INDICATED THE RESIGNATION HAD BEEN "REJECTED," TODAY'S REPORTS INDICATE THAT CLERIDES IS INSISTING ON HIS RESIGNATION AS THE GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR IN THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WITH SOME NEWSPAPERS REPORTING THAT HE ALSO INTENDS TO RESIGN AS PRESIDENT OF THE CYPRIOT PARLIAMENT. THE PRESS HERE TODAY ALSO REPORTS CLERIDES AS SAYING THAT HIS REASONS FOR RESIGNING ARE FAR DEEPER AND MORE SERIOUS THAN HIS EARLIER CLAIM THAT HE DID SO BECAUSE OF FATIGUE. ACCORDING TO SOME PAPERS CLERIDES HAS PROMISED TO MAKE HIS REAL REASONS KNOWN PUBLICLY IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

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2. THE QUESTION OF CLERIDES' RESIGNATION CAME UP DURING

A CALL EUR/SE DIRECTOR EAGLETON MADE THIS MORNING ON MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS TZOUNIS BEFORE LEAVING FOR NICOSIA. TZOUNIS SAID HE COULD NOT SAY FOR SURE WHETHER THIS WAS ANOTHER CLERIDES RESIGNATION THREAT AS IN THE PAST OR WHETHER THIS TIME IT WAS FOR REAL. HE WAS UNCLEAR REGARDING THE REASONS FOR THE RESIGNATION AT THIS TIME.

3. ACCORDING TO TZOUNIS, MAKARIOS HAD SUPPORTED CLERIDES DURING THE JANUARY 13 MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS/ NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE GOC POSITION IN THE RESUMED INTER-COMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS, IN THE FACE OF OPPOSITION BY LYSSARIDES AND PAPAIOANNOU. MOREOVER, TZOUNIS DID NOT THINK THAT THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE GOC NEGOTIATING TEAM TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL MEMBERS WAS THE REASON. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, TZOUNIS SAID CLERIDES' RESIGNATION WAS RELATED MORE TO THE QUESTION OF "CONFIDENCE" IN HIS RELATIONS WITH ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS. (IT IS OF INTEREST THAT UNDER SECRETARY FOR PRESS AND INFORMATION LAMBRIAS TOLD AN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT THIS MORNING THAT THE QUESTION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE CLERIDES-MAKARIOS RELATIONSHIP WAS BEHIND THE RESIGNATION.)

4. TZOUNIS SAID THAT THIS TIME THE GOG WAS NOT ATTEMPTING "OFFICIALLY" TO DISSUADE CLERIDES FROM RESIGNING, AS IT HAS DONE AS A MATTER OF COURSE ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. THE MESSAGE HAD BEEN SENT TO CLERIDES AND MAKARIOS UNOFFICIALLY, HOWEVER, THAT CLERIDES' RESIGNATION AT THIS TIME WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE AND WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE RESUMPTION OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. KUBISCH

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, CY, GR, (CLERIDES, GLAFCOS)  
**To:** STATE  
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